

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
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CCO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 DHA-02 /099 W  
-----231420Z 005877 /45

O P 231258Z MAY 77  
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INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY  
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5288

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. SUMMARY: SARDAR QAYYUM KHAN MAY 22 RETURNED TO RAWALPINDE FROM HIS COUNTRY-WIDE TRIP AND REPORTED TO MUFTI MAHMUD ON HIS TALKS WITH OTHER PNA LEADERS. HIS PUBLIC QUARDED OPTIMISM WAS BALANCED IN A NEWS CONFERENCE HELD LATER BY THE PIR OF PAGARO WHO SAID THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE TALKS. TWO HAND GRENADES WHICH DID NOT EXPLODE WERE THROWN AT A JEEP IN WHICH FEDERAL RAILWAYS MINISTER GHULAM HUSSAIN WAS RIDING DURING A PROCESSION IN DISTRICT GUJRAT, PUNJAB ON SUNDAY, MAY 22. THE CURFEW HAS BEEN RELAXED EVERYWHERE IT IS IMPOSED WITH THE POSSIBLE  
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EXCEPTION OF SIALKOT WHERE RIOTING SAW FOUR PEOPLE KILLED ON FRIDAY, MAY 20. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE PUNJAB WILL BE REOPENED BY MID-WEEK. TWO ARTICLES IN THE PAKISTAN TIMES SUNDAY EDITION DENOUNCED US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN STRONG TERMS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. SARDAR QAYYUN, RETURNING TO RAWALPINDI AFTER A QUICK FACT-

FINDING MISSION AROUND THE COUNTRY DURING WHICH HE SPOKE WITH  
ARRESTED PNA LEADERS, MET WITH MUFTI MAHMUD ON MAY 22 AT SIHALA.  
AT A PRESS  
CONFERENCE AFTER HIS MEETING QAYYUM TOLD REPORTERS  
THAT HE FOUND ALL PNA LEADERS TO BE IN SUBSTANTIAL ACCORD ON THE  
SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION. QAYYUM SAID THAT HIS MISSION WAS AT  
A DELICATE STAGE AND SAID THAT DETAILS MAY BE REVEALED WITHIN  
THE NEXT FEW DAYS. QAYYUM ALSO FOUND THE TIME TO DENOUNCE GOP  
TREATMENT OF THE DETAINED PNA LEADERS AND SAID THAT IF HE HAD  
KNOWN OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY WERE BEING KEPT BEFORE  
HE LEFT HE MAY NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN  
THE MISSION. QAYYUM'S HINTS OF SOME PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS WERE  
PROBABLY MEANT NOT ONLY TO ASSURE PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE PNA  
REMAINS REASONABLE, BUT ALSO TO SHOW THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT -WHOSE  
AMBASSADOR CONTINUES TO ATTEMPT TO PLAY A NEGOTIATING ROLE -THAT  
THE PNA WANTS TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT.

3. REACTING TO THE RISING HOPES SET OFF BY SARDAR QAYYUM'S  
TRIP THE PIR OF PAGARO ANNOUNCED THAT NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN  
MADE BY THE TRIP. WHEN ASKED HOW LONG HE EXPECTED THE IMPASSE  
TO REMAIN, IR SAHIB REPLIED THAT IT WOULD REMAIN UNTIL THE  
PM RESIGNED FROM OFFICE. THE PNA HAS ALSO NOT BACKED OFF  
FROM ITS DEMAND FOR FRESH ELECTIONS ACCORDING TO THE ACTING  
PNA LEADER.

4. DURING A PROCESSION WHICH WAS OTHERWISE DESCRIBED AS  
"PEACEFUL AND CALM." APP REPORTS THAT TWO HAND GRENADES WERE  
THROWN AT AN OPEN JEEP CONTAINING FEDERAL RAILWAYS MINISTER  
GHULAM HUSSAID. THE HAND GRENADES, BOTH OF WHICH FAILED  
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TO DETONATE, HAD "MADE IN USA" MARKINGS ACCORDING TO THE  
REPORT. THE CROWD, WHICH HAD BEEN CHANTING ANTI-AMERICAN  
SLOGANS DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROCESSION, LATER HEARD  
HUSSEIN PROMISE THAT PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WOULD FOIL ALL  
CONSPIRACIES AGAINST THE SOLIDARITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE  
COUNTRY. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MANDI BAHAUDDIN, DISTRICT  
GUJRAT, PUNJAB.

5. ACCORDING TO GOP PRESS RELEASES THE SECURITY SITUATION THROUGH  
OUT  
THE COUNTRY HAS RETURNED TO NEAR-NORMAL AFTER THE DISTURBANCES  
OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. CURFEWS IN LAHORE, KARACHI AND  
HYDERABAD HAVE BEEN  
RELAXED AS NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED  
FROM ANY OF THOSE AREAS. IN CONTRAST THERE HAS BEEN NO  
WORD ON A POSSIBLE RELAXATION OF THE PARTIAL CURFEW IN SIALKOT  
WHERE RIOTING ON MAY 20 LEFT FOUR PERSONS DEAD AND SIXTEEN  
INJURED ACCORDING TO A PUNJAB GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASE. IN  
A FURTHER EFFORT TO PROJECT A RETURN TO NORMALCY THE PUNJAB

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THE IMMEDIATE REOPENING OF ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. PRIMARY SCHOOLS HAD OPENED ON MAY 9 AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD FOLLOWED SUIT THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

6. NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO REPORT NEW ARRESTS OF PNA LEADERS. BOTH NAWA-I-WAQT AND JANG REPORTED ON MAY 23 THE ARREST OF FORMER FEDERAL INFORMATION MINISTER, AND RECENT PNA CONVERT, LT. GENERAL (RET.) SHER ALI KHAN AT HIS HOME IN LAHORE. OTHER PNA ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

7. TWO ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE MAY 22 PAKISTAN TIMES ATTACKED US AID PROGRAMS IN PAKISTAN (REPORTED SEPTEL). AN H.K. BURKI ARTICLE ENTITLED "TWO YEARS TO FREEDOM" ATTACKED THOSE MEMBERS OF THE GOP WHO SOUGHT TO CONTINUE THE FLOW OF AID, INCLUDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FROM THE UNITED STATES TO PAKISTAN. A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER  
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DENOUNCED A GOP PLAN TO BRING IN US EXPERTS TO HELP IN PROJECT FORMSTATION IMPLYING THAT THE EXPERTS WILL BE CIA AGENTS. THERE WAS LITTLE ELSE OF AN ANTI-AMERICAN NATURE APPEARING IN THE PAKISTAN PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND. TODAY'S MUSEZAT, THE PPP ORGAN, MENTIONED SEVERAL INSIGNIFICANT ARTICLES REPORTING ON THE SPEECHES OF SEVERAL POLITICAL UNKNOWNNS ALL DENOUNCING THE UNITED STATES.  
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